



Why Mount Rainier Charges Fees

We need your support! National parks are enjoyed by millions of people today, yet they must be preserved for future generations of Americans. This dual objective -- use and preserve -- comes at a price: protecting our natural and cultural heritage while ensuring that everyone visiting these areas has a safe, enjoyable and educational experience costs money.

Even as the number of visitors continues to climb due to the popularity of these national treasures, government funding available for necessities such as road and building repairs, campground maintenance, visitor protection, and other services has not kept pace with demand.

Users Share the Costs

Managing our public lands is a major financial investment. While most of that investment comes from the general tax base, those who use these areas for recreation derive a greater benefit from (and place a greater burden on) resources than the public at large. Fees redistribute that burden so that users pay

an increased share of the costs. We encourage you to participate in recreational activities to enhance your visit and create memories. But we also ask you to remember your role in keeping the outdoor recreational experience alive for others.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, signed by President Bush in December 2004, allows parks collecting fees to keep no less than 80% of fee revenues. These revenues are retained by the park for specific projects such as repairing, maintaining, and enhancing facilities used by visitors (restrooms, visitor centers); developing, installing, and repairing interpretive exhibits; providing visitor services and signs; restoring habitat related to visitor oriented activities such as wildlife

observation or photography; and providing visitor reservation services. The remaining 20% of the fee revenue collected at each park goes to an agency-wide fund used for projects in non-fee collection parks.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act replaced the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program authorized in 1997.

Investing in the Future

The future of these public lands rests with all American citizens. The actions we take today will reflect the price we are willing to pay to pass these lands on to future

generations, protected and in better health. We need and welcome your support.